



ABSTRACT

A centralized queue for a network printing system allows clients to make job requests and be placed in a job queue without transmitting the actual print job data to the network. An imaging device protocol (IDP) operates independently of the network layers below and only requires that a transport protocol/port be bidirectional. A variety of heterogeneous network protocols may be supported by IDP for placing all of the incoming print job information in a print queue regardless of the protocol. Print job information from both IDP and non-IDP protocol/ports may be placed in the print queue by emulating IDP on the non-IDP protocol/ports. As a result, job information for all of the print jobs attempting to access a busy printer may be stored in the print queue so that the print jobs can be printed by the printer with a fair arbitration once the network printer becomes available.